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### REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 30-34 were pending, with claims 13-29 having previously been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2 and 6 have been amended by rewriting each of them in independent form, claims 8, 30, 31 and 33 have been amended to depend from claim 2, and claims 11 and 32 have been amended to depend from claim 6. Claims 2-12 and 30-34 remain pending upon entry of this Amendment, with claims 2 and 6 being the sole pending claims in independent form.

Claims 1, 11, 12 and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Mattern (US 4,063,200) in view of Tanabe (US 2003/0174737 A1). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Mattern in view of Tanabe and further in view of Yoshino (US 5,499,269).

The Office Action also indicated that claims 2-7, 9, 10 and 34 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2 and 6 have been amended by rewriting each of them in independent form, claims 8, 30, 31 and 33 have been amended to depend from claim 2, and claims 11 and 32 have been amended to depend from claim 6.

Applicant submits that the application is now allowable, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any

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required fees in connection with this amendment, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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